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HERE'S FIRST STORY OF YANKS' FIGHT ON BOLSHEVIKI

FACE LARGE FORCE, BUT WIN WINTER CAMPAIGNS

American Troops and Other Allied Forces Undaunted by Many Attacks by Bolsheviks

Valiant Battles Carried On Against Superior Numbers, but Russians Are Defeated

By A. E. Geldhoff

WASHINGTON, April 5.—Up near the Arctic circle, amid the ice and snow of northwestern Russia 5000 American soldiers who have been fighting the Bolsheviks and the Germans for eight months are preparing to leave for home as soon as the weather permits.

Story of Exploits In Washington

When I set out to gather from the war department the facts about the Archangel expedition, I found that not even the general staff nor the army war college, which is the historical branch of the army, had enough information to form a connected story of the expedition's exploits.

In the office of General Peyton C. March, chief of staff an attaché told me:

"Communication with Archangel has been so difficult that the official reports from Col. Geo. E. Stewart, commander of the expedition, and from Col. James A. Ruggles, military intelligence attaché at Archangel, have been few and far between, mostly confined to reports of casualties and the physical welfare of the men."

From the facts I did obtain, however, it is possible to piece together a sketchy story covering the high spots of the expedition.

Its history really dates back to February, 1918, when the allied ambassadors at Petrograd found it necessary to flee from the Russian capital to Archangel. That turned American attention to Russia. In the following month the Germans began to occupy parts of Finland, and again it became apparent to the allied governments that some action was necessary in western Russia. The new government of North Russia asked the allies for help.

England and France, therefore, sent detachments of marines to Kola, on the Murman coast, to protect the Murman railroad, running from the Murman coast to Petrograd, and the vast war supplies that had been gathered along this railroad. The Finnish White Guards were advancing to seize this road.

First U. S. Marines Landed Last July

On July 1 a detachment of United States marines landed at Kola to co-operate with the French and British in this work. The marines are still there, so far as is known.

On July 30 General Pershing cabled that on recommendation of General Foch, he had detached 339th regiment of infantry from the 85th division and sent it to Archangel on British transports. The 339th was made up largely of men from Detroit, employees of automobile factories and was in command of Col. George E. Stewart.

A little later Pershing reported he had sent one battalion of the

At the left is the blockhouse built of railway ties, such as our Yanks are using in northern Russia. This particular blockhouse is at Obozerskaya, on the Vologda railroad, where the allies were fighting the reds as late as March 23. The soldier is Private Arnold Butzberger. The other picture shows an American guard at Archangel serving rice rations to bolshevik prisoners. At the right is a map of the section of Russia in which the Americans and the allied forces are fighting.



310th engineers, the 337th Field Hospital and the 332nd Ambulance company to Archangel. These units, also, came from the 85th division, and were made up of men from Michigan and Wisconsin. The total number was 5334.

A detachment of British troops also was sent to Archangel, and the whole expedition was placed in command of General Ironsides of the British army.

Experience of the quarter-master corps in supplying troops in Alaska was called into play to equip the expedition. In addition to the regular overseas equipment the men got fur caps, fur mittens, moose-hide moccasins, fur overcoats, fur parkas, or hooded coats and "muckluks," or winter boots used in the north country.

The Americans landed at Archangel August 5, and lost no time in getting into action against the bolsheviks, who were reinforced by German troops. Three days after they had landed they had begun the march southward toward Vologda and had attacked the bolshevik forces.

As a result of these conflicts Premier Lenin on August 9 issued a statement that the bolshevik government considered itself at war with the entente. This was followed on September 10 by corroboration from Ambassador Francis, then at Kamalaska. He reported that the Germans and bolsheviks had signed a new treaty, requiring them to join forces to expel the allies from Russia.

In Ten Days They Advanced 100 Miles

By August 5 the British-American expedition, accompanied by several companies of pro-ally Russian troops, had marched 100 miles southward along the Archangel-Vologda railroad, without encountering any very great resistance.

On August 22 the allied representatives at Archangel issued a proclamation to the Russian people, stating they had come at the invitation of the Russian government of the north to expel the Germans from Russia and overturn the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty.

In the meantime the American forces were aiding refugees, American and otherwise, to escape from Russia to Stockholm by way of Archangel.

The Bolsheviks were massing an army along the River Dvina, which empties into the White Sea at Archangel, so in September an American and Russian force was sent southward along the Dvina to disperse them. The bolsheviks had several gunboats in the Dvina, and two of these were sunk by allied troops and naval units. Three guns also were captured, and several towns were occupied.

At the same time the allied troops operating farther north in Kola peninsula, had driven the Finnish White Guards back across the border and cleared the Murman coast and the Kola peninsula.

By the middle of October the bolsheviks, considerably reinforced on the Dvina, began a series of heavy attacks against the Americans. Our boys were

outnumbered and driven from several of the towns they had occupied, but their casualties were not heavy.

Base Established at Mouth of the Voga

On October 16 the American Russian force repulsed another heavy attack and carried out an advance along the Dvina to the point where it meets the River Voga. Here a base was established and the troops pushed on up the Voga toward the city of Shenskursk, 190 miles south of Archangel. The enemy retired to Kotlas, 75 miles southeast.

Another battle took place at Ugor, in Vologda province, and the Bolsheviks were driven from the town.

Everywhere they went the Americans found the peasants on the verge of starvation, and rejoicing at their arrival. Great fear prevailed lest the bolsheviks come back and renew their reign of terror. The ever-present American Red Cross sent a shipload of food and other supplies into the district and relieved conditions to some extent.

The Bolsheviks then began to entrench themselves along the Dvina, and on October 19 they forced the allies to withdraw for six miles. But another American force then started a movement southward along the Onega river, which is about 70 miles west of the Dvina, to outflank the soviet forces. This forced another retreat of the Reds, and the Americans, together with a British detachment, captured the city of Shenskursk, on the Voga, October 30.

Here they were reinforced by considerable numbers of Russian tribesmen. On November 15 the bolsheviks opened a heavy bombardment of the allied lines along the Dvina, but the allies replied so effectively that the Reds suffered heavy casualties.

Winter now set in and the country became frozen up, so that military operations went forward under difficulties.

The Dvina became blocked with ice, and the Reds were forced to withdraw their gunboats and abandon their efforts to drive the Americans back down the Dvina. Snow and ice hemmed in the Yanks and British between the rivers Voga and Dvina and separated them from the bolsheviks.

New Advance Begun Up the River Pinega

On November 28 the allies began a new advance up the Pinega river, which joins the Dvina 60 miles above Archangel. Marching over frozen swamps and snow-covered roads, the Yanks and Russians took many bolshevik prisoners and by December 1 had captured the towns of Shetagsorski, 120 miles from Pinega. By this time the whole western end of the Republic of the North was under allied control.

Then followed another operation which had for its objective the capture of Vologda. A force of Siberian and Czechoslovak troops were moving on Vologda from the Ural mountains front to the east, and the American operation was timed to be in conjunction with it.

On December 30, the 339th Infantry, accompanied by a Polish legion, a French infantry detachment, Canadian artillery and Russian volunteers, advanced fifteen miles up the Onega river, 40 miles west of the Archangel railroad, and captured the city of Kadish, one of the larger towns in Archangel province. This improved the allied outpost positions considerably. Fighting around Kadish continued for several days, the allied forces being outnumbered by the Bolsheviks three to one. They succeeded, however, in holding their positions around Kadish.

The Americans and their allies now were scattered over a wide front in northern Russia, and it was impossible to consolidate their various positions into an unbroken front, chiefly because of the weather.

Allies Out Numbered 2 to 1 by Russians

In the early part of January the makeup of the allied expedition was approximately as follows:

British	6,000
Americans	4,500
French	1,500
Russians	1,200
Poles and others	1,000
Total	14,200

Against this small force the soviet government had sent a force estimated at 25,000 men, with 150 machine guns, 66 field guns and 9 six-inch guns.

Thus vastly outnumbered, the Michigan boys and their allies were forced to fight under tremendous difficulties. They marched through great fir forests in snow up to their waists, in darkness for twenty hours of every day—for the days in the north country are only four long in mid-winter. For shelter they built rough lean-tos or occupied the log huts of the peasants scattered here and there along the few roads that run south of Archangel.

Sleds were used for transporting supplies, sometimes horse-drawn, sometimes reindeer or dog drawn. But despite all their difficulties, the American troops maintained perfect health, discipline and morale.

Early last January the bolsheviks started a terrific bombardment of the allied positions on all four fronts in north Russia—those of the Onega, Voga, Dvina and Pinega rivers.

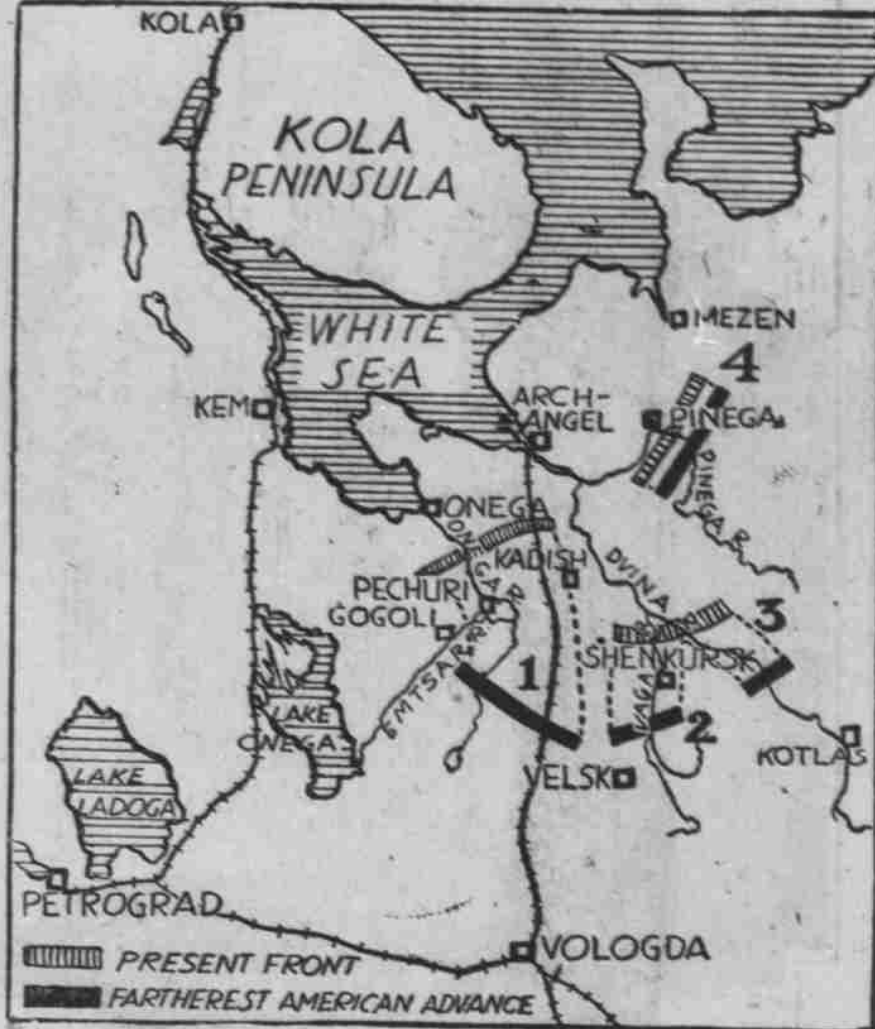
It was apparent the Reds were planning an infantry attack to "drive the allies into the White sea"—their announced intention.

For two weeks, intermittently the bolsheviks shelled the allied blockhouses, concentrating most of their fire on the line between the Voga and the Dvina, near Shenskursk.

Bolsheviks Burn First City Captured

On Jan. 23 the force at Ost, Pedenga, the point furthest south reached by the allied expedition, was forced by the artillery fire to withdraw.

At Shenskursk, on the Voga, was a force of one British, two American and two Russian com-



panies. This little army was attacked from three sides on January 24.

Outnumbered and facing capture, the allied troops evacuated the city and retired five miles to the north. Shenskursk was burned by the bolsheviks. Another allied force at Tania, 18 miles west of Shenskursk, was attacked at the same time by 1000 Red soldiers, and was also forced to retreat ten miles. Two hundred more Reds drove back the allied force which was holding the town of Kodema, 2 miles from Shenskursk.

In this retirement the American losses were only ten killed, 17 wounded and 11 missing.

On January 26 the Soviet troops again subjected the American force at Tulgas, on the Dvina, to a heavy artillery fire and then attacked, but were repulsed with heavy losses.

The next day the Bolsheviks attacked Shogovarsk, 20 miles north of Tania, in such numbers that the allies retired 10 miles down the Dvina, taking up their position at Vistavka.

The principal consequence to the allied forces of these retreats was the capture by the Reds of large stores of provisions and other supplies which had been brought from Archangel by sledges. Hundreds of peasants were driven from their homes.

The retirement constituted a retreat of about 75 miles northward along the Voga and the Dvina. After another week of spasmodic fighting in this sector, the Red attacks forced the allies to fall back for 40 miles further, and Tarasovo was evacuated on January 30.

Allied Defense Sends Reds to the Woods

The bolsheviks continued their offensive against the new allied positions along the Dvina, notably at Tulgas, but were everywhere thrown back with heavy losses. On February 4, however, the Soviet troops began a bombardment of the town of Vistavka, the new allied stronghold early in the morning and kept it up until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when their infantry launched an attack.

The allied soldiers were by this time thoroughly rested after the retirement from Shenskursk, and they gave the Reds a pretty fight. They poured so heavy an artillery and machine gun fire into the bolshevik ranks that the latter broke and the Reds fled to the woods.

On the same day the "Bolsheviks" began an assault against the Pinega River front, to the southeast of Archangel, and forced the allies to retire, but failed to dislodge them from the town of Pinega.

On February 7 the allied troops

on the Onega River opened a little offensive of their own to improve their positions south of Kadish. This force was soon reinforced by the "French Foreign Legion," a detachment of Russian volunteers trained at Archangel by French officers and sent southward.

Allied airplanes aided in harassing the bolsheviks, and the army of Americans, British and Russians made a successful advance of five miles south of Kadish, to prevent the flanking of the American positions on the Voga.

On the tenth the Reds succeeded in occupying temporarily several allied blockhouses in this sector.

On the tenth and eleventh the Lenin troops attacked the American positions at Sredmakrenga, on the Dvina, but they met with such effective resistance that they were forced to retreat.

Two Weeks Lull, Then Renewed Offensive

For more than two weeks after that there was a lull in the fighting, although the Reds kept up a desultory artillery fire.

The big offensive was not yet over, however. The bolshevik general staff at Moscow declared recently that the bolshevik army would reach Archangel by May 1. This statement may, however, be based on the fact that the War Department has announced that the American troops are to be brought out of North Russia.

The British government has announced that a copy of the military plans of the Soviet government which has fallen into its hands indicates that the offensive of last winter was to be the greatest effort of the bolsheviks, and was to be followed by another in the spring.

Since March 1 the fighting on the Archangel front has been unimportant. On March 3 the Reds attacked the allied forces north of Vistavka, but were repulsed. Their artillery also renewed the shelling of the Dvina positions. On March 6 the town of Kadish, which has changed hands several times, and was destroyed by shell-fire, was permanently evacuated by the allies, who retired to the bank of the Emsta River.

Air Bombardments Of Allied Planes

AIRPLANE BOMBARDMENTS OF THE ALLIED LINES BY THE BOLSHEVIKS WERE COMMON IN THE FIRST WEEKS OF MARCH. On the eighth and ninth the enemy renewed its bombardment of Vistavka, which had been almost destroyed and followed the shelling by an infantry attack. When the fight ended, however, the Americans, British and Russians, although outnumbered as usual,

BOLSHEVIKI DRIVEN BACK AFTER MANY BIG DRIVES

Americans' Long Retreat Before Red Host Related; Conquered Time and Again

Russian Armies of Lenin and Trotsky 'Driven to Woods' in Attempt to Pierce Lines

were still holding the ruins of the town.

Along the Voga the allies have been strengthening their positions during the lull, in expectation of renewed infantry attacks. Along the Vologda railway the Soviet artillery attempted something new on March 11 by opening a night bombardment, which was without serious effect.

On March 15 the bolsheviks made an attempt to cut the allied line of communication between the Dvina and the Voga, but the effort failed. The Reds lost 57 killed and four prisoners, while the only casualty suffered by the allies was one man wounded.

On March 18 in an advance of 800 Bolsheviks near Plesetskai, French and Russians were driven from Bolshoi Ozer, between Dvina and Onega sectors. Along the Vologda Railway and on the Dvina front, Americans and allies defeated bolshevik forces.

In a new allied offensive between Onega and Obozerskaya, started the 23d, no gains were made.

In the period between February and March 15, the total casualties were 15 killed, 32 wounded and 1 missing. All through the campaign the bolshevik losses have been five times as great as those of the allies.

Two American railroad companies containing a total of 720 men are now on their way to the Murman coast, in conjunction with 1680 British troops, to put in condition and operate the Murman railroad, to facilitate the withdrawal of the allied expedition this spring.

According to the War Department announcement, this withdrawal will take place "at the earliest possible moment that the weather conditions in the spring will permit."

MORE RADICAL WING OF COMMUNISTS

VIENNA, via Copenhagen, April 5. (By the Associated Press.)—A disagreement has occurred in the soviet government in Budapest, which has led to the formation of a still more radical wing of the communist party, according to the Reichspost.

The situation in Budapest is critical owing to food conditions and growing discontent on the part of the population.

GERMAN'S CAN'T SHOP IN PARIS; NOT YET

PARIS, April 5.—Strange as it may seem, the Paris police arrested three foreigners on the boulevard the other afternoon in spite of their plea that they had tarried in Paris to spend money. You see, they were Germans from Germany, recently engaged in ringing locomotives to France. When the police asked for their papers, they said they had stopped to do some shopping while waiting on a train back.